

Better Hawaii: 2005 Legislative Session



Representative Lee at the Arizona Memorial on May 30, 2005 to pay tribute to our fallen heroes. The Legislature provided a year to help construct a new visitor's center at

bought as second homes or investments. The increases will generate about \$36 million per year, to be used for land conservation, the development of affordable housing and deposits to the state's general fund.

The Legacy Lands fund will receive 10% of the conveyance tax revenue collected, anticipated to be \$3.6 million over the next year, for the purpose of purchasing lands deemed valuable for the state. The legislature also appropriated \$1 million to acquire Honu'apo estuary land on the Big Island, and \$3 million to acquire Moanalua Valley preservation land on Oahu.

Alien invasive species have become a threat to Hawaii's natural environment, our economy and our quality of life. The legislature appropriated \$300,000 statewide, to be expended by the counties, to control and eradicate invasive species, including the coqui frog.

Fighting Substance Abuse

The legislature remains committed to wiping out the effects on families and communities caused by the

use and abuse of crystal methamphetamine, or "ice."

This year, the legislature approved \$15.4 million in new money over the next two years for anti-drug programs. A substantial part of this money will be directed to our schools, to assess and treat children with substance abuse problems in all our high schools and 15 middle schools with the greatest need.

Minimum wage

The legislature raised the minimum wage to \$6.75 on January 1, 2006, and to \$7.25 on January 1, 2007.

Bottle Law

Changes were made to the deposit/redemption program for beverage containers, allowing consumers to crush cans for recycling. In addition, the legislature passed a bill to provide a rebate to certified redemption centers for the cost of purchasing reverse vending machines.

Maintaining safe road conditions

\$10 million has been granted to the various counties to assist with fixing potholes, repairing and maintaining road conditions for the public's safety.

Campaign Spending

The legislature amended political campaign fundraising and contribution restrictions, including

prohibiting contributions by any contractor doing business with the state or county for the time period between the execution and completion of the contract.

An Investment in the Future of Oahu

In response to the growing concerns about traffic and approaching gridlock, the Legislature gave the counties the authority to raise the General Excise Tax up to one-half percent to address transportation issues. Counties must approve the surcharge by December 31, 2005. The surcharge, if approved, would be levied in January 2007 and end in 2022.

Military appreciation

The legislature passed a package of successful bills, resolutions and appropriations in support and appreciation of Hawaii's military community. The 2005 Military Appreciation package includes 6 bills, 5 resolutions, over \$2.2 million in programs and services over the next two years, and over \$26 million in capital improvement funds to build or improve facilities. The package includes the establishment of the Hawaii Medal of Honor, in deep appreciation for military personnel with Hawaii ties who have been killed in action since 2003.



Representative Lee with members of the Caregiver Coalition at an appreciation breakfast for legislative supporters of long term care solutions

2005 Legislation Introduced and Passed by Representative Lee

HB0278, HD1, SD1, CD1

Relating to Victim Restitution

This bill makes improvements to the law regarding crime victim compensation. The rights of crime victims are one of Representative Lee's major interests. In addition, she introduced a Constitutional Amendment on victim's rights.

HB0283, HD1, SD1, CD1

Establishing a Commission to Recognize and Honor Senator Hiram Fong

Senator Hiram Fong was the first Asian American U.S. Senator. Hawaii is proud of this great statesman who worked in a bi-partisan way for the welfare of our state. This commission will be charged with finding appropriate ways to recognize and honor him. A written report of the Commission's recommendations is due to the Legislature prior to the convening of the 2006 session. The Commission is directed to consult and seek advice from appropriate organizations and agencies in determining how Senator Fong can be honored.

HB1393, HD2, SD1, CD1

Relating to the Commission on the Status of Women

Transfers responsibility for the Commission on the Status of Women to the Department of Human Services and gives the Commission permanent status.



Representative Lee with granddaughter Solvej

HB1453, HD1, SD1

Relating to Animals

This popular measure allows trusts to be established for domestic or pet animals for their care after an owner's death.

SPECIAL PROJECTS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Included in the Capital Improvements Budget this year are the following projects:

- ▼ **\$1.9 million** for 8 portable classrooms for Mililani 'Ike Elementary School
- ▼ **\$100,000** for design of a 10-classroom building for Mililani 'Ike
- ▼ **\$450,000** for improvements to the Mililani Public Library
- ▼ **\$110,200** for hurricane retrofitting of the Mililani High School Cafeteria
- ▼ **\$5 million** for design and construction of a second access to Leeward Community College. This project will help Central Oahu commuters who currently experience traffic delays on Kamehameha Highway near Leeward Community College.

Legislation was introduced for both a rapid response unit and full ambulance unit for Mililani. Your legislators will be working hard to achieve this goal during the next legislative session.

Contact Representative Marilyn Lee

State Capitol, Room 421
Honolulu, HI 96813

replee@capitol.hawaii.gov

586-9460
(Office)

586-9466
(Fax)



Representative
Marilyn Lee
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813



Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage Paid
Honolulu, Hawaii
Permit No. 9882

People First

Representative Marilyn Lee's Report on the 2005 Session

Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

I am excited to share the accomplishments of the 23rd Legislature. The laws passed this session will improve the quality of life in every community in Hawaii.

We approved measures that support our public schools; continue the fight against ice; increase the supply of affordable housing; protect Hawaii's most valuable open space; improve transportation, and support our troops. At the same time, we kept the cost of government down and passed a responsible balanced budget.

Included inside are some of the 2005 Legislative Highlights with brief descriptions of some of the most important bills that passed this session. It is my hope that this 2005 Legislative newsletter will give you some insight into the efforts and direction of the Legislative session this year.

Marilyn Lee

Representative
MARILYN B. LEE

District 38
Mililani/Mililani Mauka/
Waipio Acres

TRAFFIC STUDY TO LOOK AT CONGESTION IN CENTRAL OAHU

In cooperation with Representative Ryan Yamane and Senator Ron Menor, a **one million dollar appropriation** was passed to fund a long-awaited **TRAFFIC STUDY** for our community. Traffic is the number one issue of concern among citizens in District 38. As the Vice-Chair of the Transportation Committee and a member of the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO), finding solutions to our traffic problem is a top priority for me.

"LAWMAKERS LISTEN" BRINGS COMMITTEE CHAIRS TO MILILANI



On May 10, 2005, I co-sponsored a "Lawmakers Listen" session at Mililani High School to give the community a chance to share their concerns with key lawmakers and committee chairs. The meeting was well attended and gave my colleagues and me a chance to listen to citizen concerns, gather valuable input, and give our perspective on recently passed legislation.

Participating lawmakers included: House Speaker Calvin Say; Majority Leader Marcus Oshiro; Finance Chair Dwight Takamine; Labor Chair Kirk Caldwell; Transportation Chair Joe Souki; Public Safety and Military Affairs Chair Ken Ito; Consumer Protection and Commerce Chair Ken Hiraki; Higher Education Chair Tommy Waters; Education Vice-Chair Lyla Berg and Public Safety and Military Affairs Vice-Chair Pono Chong.

Your voice can help shape a progressive future for our state. We must work together to meet the significant challenges now facing our schools, communities and families.